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## BRIEF MENTION.

*The Gāthas of Zoroaster.* Vol. I, large 8vo, 394 pp., by L. H. MILLS, D. D., Hon. M. A. Oxon. This work comprises, with the text of the Gāthas in the original, those of the Pahlavi commentaries (deciphered), of Neryosangh's Sanskrit, and the Persian Munich 12 b. transliterated, together with translations of the first three. Vol. II will include alternative renderings, with a full commentary, and, it is hoped, a grammar. It is intended to present the entire subject in exhaustive treatment. The translation of the Pahlavi is, to three-quarters of its extent, the first in continuous treatment yet attempted; that of Neryosangh (which is to the last degree necessary) is entirely a first translation. Scholars will find all the materials for scientific investigation ready to their hand (see the Academy, Sept. 13, 1884; also the Athenaeum, April 14, 1884; also the Revue Critique, Nov. 25, 1883). As a matter of course, no scientific conclusions in the study of the Gāthas can be made without a thorough mastery of materials. Much preliminary work of value was formerly done by writers ignorant of Pahlavi, but final opinions without full knowledge of materials are not to be desired. This book, in its imperfect state, has been doing its work in widely extended private circulation for from five to six years. Writers who formerly professed their want of acquaintance with materials now cite them fully and with respect. The publication will be equivalent to a second edition.

The first volume was urgently requested, in written and verbal communications of a flattering nature, after extended inspection, by the recognized leading authorities in Germany, France, and other countries. The delay in the public sale has been caused by the consumption of time in translating the XXXI Vol. of the Sacred Books of the East, which, up to page 200 + introduction, was actually a part of this present work (see the Deutsche Literaturzeitung, Sept. 24, 1887, and the Nation, July 12, 1888). The present delay is caused solely by want of funds. The author dares not print his MS, as he cannot risk more money. Damaging curtailment is threatened. Will not some intelligent men of wealth in America or England second the donation of the English Secretary of State for India in Council, who, on the recommendation of Major-Gen. Sir H. C. Rawlinson, K. C. B., has subscribed fifty pounds (\$250)? The price of the completed work, 2 vols. (600 to 700 pages), will be seven dollars and a half delivered in America; thirty shillings in Europe and India. Applications may be made direct to Dr. Mills, 19 Norham Road, Oxford, or to Dr. G. Z. Gray, Cambridge, Mass.

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The JOURNAL should before this have called attention to the treatise of Johansson on Greek contract verbs (*De derivatis verbis contractis linguae Graecae*, Upsala, 1886), not merely because it contains a thoroughgoing investigation

(216 pages) of a subject in which the views of scholars have shifted much during the last few years, but also because Johansson is one of the most prominent of the younger generation of morphologists. The papers in Kuhn's *Zeitschrift* and Bezenberger's *Beiträge*, the short treatise *Några ord om dialekter*, evince the fact that their author is well equipped to grapple with the toughest problems of comparative grammar.

The treatise on the contract verbs aims, in the first instance, at refuting a theory propounded by Wackernagel in K. Z. XXVII, but has been so much enlarged that it embraces a series of acute, but oftentimes over-bold, speculations as regards the genesis of many Sanskrit, German, and Greek forms. A carefully prepared collection of examples of contract verbs from the inscriptions (pp. 1-63) introduces J.'s defence of his position that the verbal types  $-\bar{a}\omega$  and  $-\bar{\alpha}\omega$ ,  $-\omega\omega$  and  $-\sigma\omega$ ,  $-\eta\omega$  and  $-\epsilon\omega$  are proethnic. Especially noticeable is his use of this theory to show that verbs in  $-\epsilon\omega$  in Ionic, which run parallel to those in  $-\omega\omega$  in other dialects (e. g.  $\acute{\alpha}\rho\epsilon\omega$ ,  $\acute{\alpha}\nu\tau\epsilon\omega$ ), are derived from original forms in  $-\bar{a}\omega$  ( $-\epsilon\omega < -\eta\omega < -\bar{a}\omega$ ); whereas those in  $\bar{\omega} < -\omega\omega$  are descendants of the type  $-\bar{\alpha}\omega$ . On this view he seeks to explain the variations of the MSS of Herodotus, that slippery ground upon which even Merzdorf found no firm footing. It is at least cheering that any one should make the attempt to bring order out of the chaos which reigns in the Herodotean MSS, and that, not in the sweeping way affected by Fritsch in his recently published *Zum Vokalismus des herodotischen Dialekts*, where everything is condemned that has not been anointed by inscriptional authority. We leave with Johansson the responsibility of proving his assertion that Herodotus had been translated into various dialects at the time when the grammarians began their recensions (p. 155). Whatever be the ultimate verdict upon J.'s contentions, there can be but one judgment as to his Latin style. It is irretrievably heavy, for which the unwieldiness of the subject is in part responsible.

A shorter paper by Mekler (*Beiträge zur Bildung des gr. Verbums*) deserves notice in this connection. Its aim is in part similar to that of Johansson. Part I deals with the contract verbs with long thematic vowel, and is more valuable than Part II, on the inflection of the pluperfect active. S.

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Mr. GAVIN HAMILTON, Member of the Glasgow University Council, is about to present the world with a treatise entitled *The Moods in the English Bible the same as in Latin and Greek, contrasted with those of Priscian's German Followers* (Edinburgh, Oliver and Boyd). The book is revolutionary, as will be seen from the cardinal statement that the subjunctive mood in Latin and Greek, as in English, emphasizes what is important or novel. The successful development of this theme will bring consternation to those who have committed themselves to the theory that the subjunctive denotes 'what is doubtful,' 'what does not take place,' and Professor Goodwin's pretty distinction of more and less vivid for indicative and subjunctive will suffer scath by being reversed. But as all who profess and call themselves grammarians will fall under Mr. Hamilton's condemnation, it will not be wise for any of us to anticipate the doom of the American followers of 'the foreign Priscian (A. D. 500), or the modern German foreigners Kühner and Zumpt, or the Danish Madvig.'

Of IWAN MÜLLER's great and indispensable collection, entitled *Handbuch der klassischen Alterthumswissenschaft*, several new parts have been received since the last notice published in this Journal (VIII 512). The appearance of the tenth half-volume, which follows the eleventh, according to the peculiarly German method of publication, completes the work, with the exception of part of the fourth and part of the fifth, which are promised for 1890, and the sixth (*Kunstarchæologie*) and eighth (*Römische Litteraturgeschichte*), which will be brought out in 1889. The twenty half-volumes are put at the reasonable price of 5 marks and 50 pfennigs each; and we hope that by the time the work is completed, the tax on learning, now so mercilessly imposed, will be removed, so that the American professor, the slenderness of whose emoluments has lately moved the sympathy of Mr. Bryce, may be able the more readily to provide himself with this invaluable compendium of classical philology and antiquities.

## CORRECTION.

Rhine Frankish, as used in the first paper (Am. Jour. Phil., IX, pp. 81-82), includes both Middle Frankish and Rhine Frankish (Braune's classification of Althochdeutsche Grammatik, §6, b). It seems better to accept this latter division of the Rhenish dialects and thus avoid confusion of nomenclature. Hence in the above references Middle Frankish is to be substituted for Rhine Frankish and Rhine Frankish for South Frankish. More on this will soon appear in the *Preface* to the reprints of this entire series of papers on Pennsylvania German.